

# English Conversation Club

*Run by the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy*

## Project Goal

To support individuals in a local community (such as a workplace, faith group, or neighborhood, for example) in order to help them develop their confidence in English and to access other English literacy services.

## Project Components

The Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) has a number of resources that are available to assist groups that are interested in supporting the efforts of English language learners. Resources include a Quick Start guide; training; and a library and other resources to support instructional and assessment materials.

## Timeline for Planning

**One to Three Months Before:** Start organizing the members of your club or look for an established one to join!

## How Many Volunteers?

It is good to have a team of three to five people who will be organizing and teaching or facilitating the club.

## Time Commitment

About 2 to 4 hours per week per volunteer for at least a year.

## Expenses

Instructional and outreach materials, including photocopying and any textbooks. Also, there may be an expense for classroom space or another comfortable setting for learning. Total is in the range of \$100 to \$500.

## Publicity

The lead organizer would find volunteers, although MCAEL and the Volunteer Center can help promote the need for volunteers through their websites.

## Challenges

First, learning English is a long term process, so it's very important that this be viewed by the volunteers as a long-term priority rather than a short-term activity. Second, the organizers and facilitators need to be adequately prepared. MCAEL can help with this.

## Results

Research shows that it takes 100 to 120 hours of continuous instruction to advance one level in English ability, so the Conversation Club needs to run for minimally one year and also set clear expectations for volunteers and learners alike. If it does, it can lead non-native speakers to: 1) develop confidence so that they can get on a path towards learning English, and therefore 2) provide a bridge to a more intensive learning environment, so that people can continue to progress and don't get frustrated. 3) Provide a community of support to people who want to learn English.

## Tips/Key Steps:

Don't try to do this on your own. Go visit another Conversation Club or English program that is in action. Recognize that learning a language is a slow process. (see more on this in 'Results. Look within your community to see who is really committed to doing this.



### Points of Interest

- Tap into available resources from MCAEL, including a library where people can come to look for materials.

